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INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND REPORT OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

Note by the secretariat

The present note contains the report of the Advisory Group of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People on its fifth session, held in Geneva from 13 to 14 April 2000, including its recommendations for grants from the Voluntary Fund approved by the Coordinator of the Decade, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

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Introduction

1. The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995, relating to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In accordance with resolution 48/163, the Secretary-General was requested to establish a voluntary fund for the Decade and was authorized "to accept and administer voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private institutions and individuals for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade".

2. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 50/157, the Coordinator of the Decade, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, should "encourage the development of projects and programmes, in collaboration with Governments and taking into account the views of indigenous people and the appropriate United Nations agencies, for support by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade".

3. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157 on the Programme of Activities for the International Decade, an Advisory Group was created in April 1996, to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund.

4. The Advisory Group is composed of Mr. Michael Dodson (Chairperson-Rapporteur), Ms. Naomi N. Kipuri, Mr. José Carlos Morales, Ms. Tove Sovndahl Petersen and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, who are also members of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, as well as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Ms. Erica-Irene Daes, and Mr. José Luis Gomez del Prado, appointed by the Coordinator of the Decade.

I. FIFTH SESSION OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

5. At its fifth session, held from 13 to 14 April 2000 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, the Advisory Group held four private meetings.

A. Implementation of recommendations adopted in 1999

6. The Group noted with satisfaction that most of the recommendations adopted at its fourth session had been implemented by its secretariat.

1. Grants to projects proposed by indigenous organizations and communities

7. The Advisory Group was informed that in 1999 sufficient funding was raised, thanks to the contributions made by regular and new donors (including Bolivia, Germany and Saudi Arabia, see annex II), to pay all project grants recommended at the fourth session and approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/4, annexes II and III).

2. OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme

8. The Advisory Group was informed that the four indigenous fellows selected by the High Commissioner on the basis of the Group's recommendations made at its fourth session attended the 1999 OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme. Several members of the Group met with the fellows in Geneva and were pleased with the selection made and the implementation of the Programme. An evaluation was presented to the Group by the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team. Funds were made available by OHCHR under the United Nations regular budget for 1999.

9. The Advisory Group was also informed that the four new indigenous fellows selected at its inter-sessional consultation held in October 1999 on the Fellowship Programme 2000 were approved by the High Commissioner (see annex I). Funds were made available by OHCHR under the regular budget for 2000 so that the Fellowship Programme could be implemented without delay in 2000.

10. The Advisory Group expressed its appreciation for the decision taken by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy High Commissioner to provide allocations under the regular budget for 2000 for the Fellowship Programme.

3. Workshop on Higher Education and Indigenous Peoples in Costa Rica

11. The Advisory Group was informed that the workshop was successfully held in San José from 28 June to 2 July 1999, as recommended by the Group in 1998 and by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1997/32 and endorsed by the General Assembly in 1997 (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/5, Report on the Workshop on Higher Education and Indigenous Peoples). The Group expressed its warm appreciation to the Government of Costa Rica for having hosted the workshop.

4. Subregional seminars in Africa

12. The Advisory Group was informed that these workshops had to be postponed but that sufficient funding was available.

B. Financial situation of the Fund

13. The Advisory Group reviewed the financial situation of the Fund and all relevant information available at OHCHR, including the list of contributions paid or pledged available at the fifth session (see annex II).

C. Recommendations for 2000 for programmes under the International Decade

1. Project grants to indigenous organizations and communities

14. The Group examined 60 applications for project grants received within the deadline and within the mandate of the Fund, in the light of the selection criteria annexed herewith (see annex III). The organizations which have submitted applications after the deadline or outside the mandate have been informed accordingly by the secretariat.

15. The Group recommended that grants be awarded to 17 projects for a total of about US$ 150,000 (see annex IV.A). The Group also recommended three other grants for projects on a contingency list (annex IV.B), which will be paid should a sufficient amount of new contributions be received.[1]

16. The secretariat of the Fund will continue to reply to all applicants whose projects were not recommended for a grant. These project leaders will be advised to contact for fund-raising purposes other United Nations agencies and/or relevant bilateral governmental agencies working in their country.

2. OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme

17. The Advisory Group emphasized the need for the Indigenous Fellowship Programme to be an integrated activity of the United Nations human rights programme and therefore to be financed under the United Nations regular budget. It reiterated its willingness to be consulted and provide advice to the High Commissioner on the selection of the OHCHR indigenous fellows.

18. The Group recommended that for the selection of the candidates for the 2001 Programme all members should be present during the selection process, if possible, otherwise a conference should be organized.

19. The Group took note of the agreement between OHCHR and the University of Bilbao (Spain) according to which four Spanish-speaking indigenous fellows previously selected by the Group will be able to attend the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme in Geneva for two months.

20. As far as the selection of externally funded fellows was concerned, the Advisory Group reaffirmed that the applicants should meet the OHCHR criteria for selection, that they should go through the normal selection procedure established for the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme, and that the number of externally funded fellows should not exceed the number of fellows financed by the Fund.

3. Second workshop for indigenous journalists

21. The Advisory Group reiterated its strong support for the organization of a second workshop for indigenous journalists. Noting information made available by the OHCHR

Indigenous Project Team, and taking into consideration the particular wishes expressed by indigenous peoples, the Group recommended that the Team should make a further effort to organize this workshop in Atlanta together with the Carter Center. If this effort proved unsuccessful, the Advisory Group recommended that preparations be made for the workshop to be held at United Nations Headquarters.

4. Subregional seminars in Africa

22. The Advisory Group reiterated its strong support for the organization of the two subregional seminars in Africa (see para. 12 above), noted information made available by the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team and recommended that the Team continue its informal discussion with the Governments of relevant African States including Mali and South Africa.

5. Workshop for indigenous children

23. The Advisory Group strongly supported the organization of a workshop for indigenous children, to be held in Geneva prior to the session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 2000, and recommended a grant of up to US$ 23,000 to assist with the participation of representatives from indigenous communities and organizations.

24. The Advisory Group reiterated its willingness to be consulted by the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team in the preparation of workshops, seminars and meetings financed by the Fund, including the selection of indigenous experts to attend such events.

D. Fund-raising

25. The Advisory Group met with representatives of interested donor Governments, including Canada, Denmark, France, the Holy See and Norway, and a representative of the Greenland Home Rule Government. The Chairperson and the other members of the Group expressed their gratitude for the regular donors' generous contributions, and recommended a sustained effort and, if possible, an increase in the voluntary contributions. The Group encouraged even symbolic contributions by new donors as an expression of interest in funding projects and programmes during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

II. SIXTH SESSION OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

26. Taking into consideration the increased number of applications for project grants that had to be analysed at the fifth session, the Advisory Group recommended that its next session should be extended from two to three or four days, and that it should be scheduled prior to the consideration by the Commission on Human Rights of the agenda item on indigenous populations. The Group also recommended that the presentation of the financial situation of the Fund to the Commission by its Chairperson should be included in the provisional timetable and work programme of the sixth session. The Group also recommended that its secretariat consult the Bureau in advance of the next session of the Commission to arrange a suitable date for this presentation.

27. The Group decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixth session a separate item on the review of the use of grants paid in 1997 (12 grants), 1998 (13 grants) and 1999 (24 grants, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/4, annex III) and the reporting obligations of organizations and communities. The Group recommended that its secretariat should send reminders to those project leaders who have not yet submitted satisfactory narrative and financial reports, asking them to do so by the end of 2000.

28. Other issues which could not be discussed at the fifth session for lack of documentation or time and which were deferred to the sixth session for consideration by all members include:

(a) The question of emergency grants, the Board's secretariat should submit at the sixth session a document exploring the possibility of providing, during the inter-sessional period, emergency grants for a small amount of money (for instance, up to a maximum of US$ 5,000) and describe a consultation process, on the basis of the experience of a similar procedure established by another General Trust Fund for direct humanitarian assistance;

(b) The question of the practical implications of accepting as OHCHR Fellows indigenous candidates accompanied by children;

(c) A proposal by the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team to organize a workshop on indigenous peoples, human rights and the private sector;

(d) A proposal by the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team for training in human rights and capacity-building at the country level;

(e) The question of the appointment of a consultant to assist the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team.

Note

[1] A contribution of US$ 129,381 paid by Denmark was duly registered by the United Nations Treasurer on 11 April 2000 which will allow the grants on the contingency list to be paid.

Annex I

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme for the year 2000

1. The Advisory Group recommended during its inter-sessional consultation in October 1999 that the following four candidates should be offered grants to participate in the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme for the year 2000:

Mr. Benoni Mugenzura (Rwanda)
Ms. Anjana Subba (Nepal)
Mr. Sixto Castro Jampir Acapat (Bolivia)*
Ms. Brenda Oljenik (Canada)

2. Furthermore, the following list of eight alternative candidates was established:

Mr. Johnson Ole Kaunga (Kenya)
Ms. Kanniganchi Parmer (India)
Mr. Samuel Casper Pinedo (Peru)
Ms. Meda Synder (USA)
Mr. Abdelkrim Smaill (Algeria)
Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura (Bangladesh)
Ms. Ximena Cecilia Vasquez Mazuelos (Chile)
Ms. Cindy Dickson (Canada)

3. On 20 December 1999 this recommendation was approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

* This candidate was later replaced by the alternative candidate, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Tripura (Bangladesh).

Annex II

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES AVAILABLE FOR THE FIFTH SESSION

A. New contributions as at 11 April 2000

Donor	Amount in US$	Paid on	Paid in	Voucher No.	No. of contribution
Bolivia	1 000	20 Oct. 1999	NY	B045993	1st
Cyprus	2 009	15 March 2000	GVA	4000007269	3rd
Estonia	9 596	10 Jan. 2000	GVA	4000006342	2nd
Germany	26 030	10 Dec. 1999	GVA	94000005875	1st
Japan	35 000	29 Feb. 2000	NY	B047171	5th
New Zealand	10 867	02 Sept. 1999	GVA	94000004442	5th
Norway	62 327	29 Dec. 1999	GVA	94000006221	3rd
Saudi Arabia	10 000	22 July 1999	GVA	94000003915	1st
Sweden	36 876	28 Oct. 1999	GVA	94000005226	2nd
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	6 530	09 July 1999	GVA	94000003896	4th
Erasmus Prize[a]	108 568	31 Jan. 2000	GVA	4000006114	1st
Mr. D. Prémont	125	27 March 2000	GVA	3/18	1st
Total	308 928				

B. Outstanding pledges as at 11 April 2000

Donor	Amount in US$	Pledged in	Local currency	Pledged on
Chile	5 000	NY		23 Nov. 1999
Denmark	129 381[b]	GVA	1 000 000	22 March 2000
Netherlands	101 051	GVA	212 000 (Guilders)	25 Nov. 1999
Sweden	34 443	GVA	300 000 SEK	31 March 2000
Tunisia	951	NY		4-5 Nov. 1998
Total	270 826			

[a] The Coordinator of the Decade, Ms. Mary Robinson, received the Erasmus Prize, awarded by the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation to a person or institution that has made an exceptionally important contribution to European culture, society or social science, and decided to give part of it to this Fund.

[b] Paid at the beginning of April 2000 according to the Representative of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the meeting of the Advisory Group with donors on 12 April 2000, but not yet officially registered by the United Nations Treasurer. The Secretariat later on received confirmation that the payment had been received on 11 April 2000 by UNOG.

Annex III

GUIDELINES

Objectives of the Fund

- To support the Programme of Activities adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/157

- To provide assistance to projects and programmes advancing the goal of the International Decade - international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, culture and health

Who can apply

- Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic and other similar institutions, organizations should be non-profit-making

- National committees for the Decade

- The organization submitting the project for funding should have the capacity to raise needed additional money from other sources

Main project areas

- The programme of activities and objectives of the Decade as well as the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as they relate to indigenous people

- Indigenous organizational structures and procedures and their strengthening through education, training and institution- and capacity-building, bearing in mind the need to respect their relevant traditions

- Education and training in human and indigenous rights

- Information about indigenous peoples and the Decade

- Communications and exchanges between the United Nations system and indigenous peoples and between indigenous peoples

- Fund-raising initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Decade

Criteria for selection

- Projects should be of direct benefit to indigenous people in all parts of the world
- Projects should be prepared by or in full support and consultation with indigenous people
- Projects will be considered taking into account gender balance
- Particular consideration will be given to projects from underdeveloped areas in different regions
- Projects will be approved in relevant areas including in particular those relating to promotion, protection and implementation of human and indigenous rights

Deadline and consideration of projects

- Projects should be sent to the secretariat of the Fund before 1 October
- Complete application forms must be duly completed in English, French or Spanish and dated and signed by the project leader
- Applications to the Fund will be considered at the annual session of the Advisory Group in March/April of each year

Grants by the Fund

- Grants by the Fund will not exceed US$ 50,000

Annex IV

A. LIST OF PROJECT GRANTS APPROVED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP AT ITS FIFTH SESSION

Organization	Title of project	Country Indigenous community represented	Amount recommended in US $	Conditions attached to the grant
AFRICA				
Dupoto-e-Maa (Olkejuado Pastoralists Development Organization)	Land protection campaign project, Indigenous Maasai of Kajiado	Kenya Maasai	10 000	For capacity-building and advocacy
Tomwo Intergrated Pastoralist Development Initiatives	Land rights, natural resource management and paralegal/democratic leadership education	Kenya Pokot	10 000	
Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA)	Preparatory planning meeting for the eighteenth session of UNWGIP with the San of southern Africa	Namibia the San (Bushmen)	6 000	
TILALT	Education and training in human and indigenous rights	Niger Touareg	10 000	For training and sensitization programme by radio
Association Sahel solidarité action	Human rights education in Touareg schools in Agadez	Niger Kel Tamasheq	10 000	For training materials and teachers' salaries

Organization	Title of project	Country Indigenous community represented	Amount recommended in US $	Conditions attached to the grant
Community Research and Development Services CORDS	Pastoral Resource Utilization and Management Project	United Republic of Tanzania Maasai	15 000	To contribute to the workshops and operational costs of the project
AMERICAS				
Kekchi Council of Belize	Institutional strengthening and programme planning for the Kekchi Council of Belize	Belize Kekchi Maya	5 000	
Centro de Educación Campesina de Bases	Rehabilitation and improvement of terrasses in the Andean Valley	Bolivia Icharani, Llokahuaya, Cohajoni	5 600	For planting and construction materials
Coordinadora de Comunidades en Conflicto Arauco-Malleco	Creation of a centre for the defence and promotion of Mapuche rights	Chile Mapuche	5 000	
Asociación de Cabildos Genaro Sánchez	Tradition and customs of the Kokonukos, an indigenous view on the environment	Colombia Kokonukos	6 600	

Organization	Title of project	Country Indigenous community represented	Amount recommended in US $	Conditions attached to the grant
Saqb'e Mayab' Moloj	Production of educational materials on Maya youth	Guatemala Maya	5 000	For travel, the radio programme and the costs of a computer
Asociación Coordinadora de Comunidades Indígenas de El Salvador	Education and training in indigenous and general rights	El Salvador Nahuat	5 000	For workshops
ASIA				
Youth Forum for Social Action YFSA	Capacity-building workshop/group discussions for training the local indigenous people in their welfare and development	India Oraon	12 550	
All India Santal Welfare and Cultural Society	Socio-political empowerment of the indigenous tribes (Santals) of Litipara Block in Pakus district of Santal Parganas (Bihar) through the traditional village councils (the Manjhi Pargana System)	India Santals and others	10 000	Not to be used to pay for honorariums
Ecological Services Centre (Ecoscentre)	Education on indigenous rights and protected areas in Chitwan, Nepal	Nepal Tharu, Bote, Majhi, Kumal, Darai, Musahar	10 805	

Organization	Title of project	Country Indigenous community represented	Amount recommended in US $	Conditions attached to the grant
EUROPE				
Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	A. Direct assistance B. Workshop in the Russian Far East: from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development	Russian Federation Batani	A. 13 400 B. 10 000	1. Pending receipt of satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of the previous grant. 2. The Secretariat should advise the organization to contact UNDP for additional assistance.

Total number of projects: 17
Total amount: US$ 149,955

B. CONTINGENCY LIST OF PROJECT GRANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY GROUP AT ITS FIFTH SESSION

Organization	Title of project	Country Indigenous community represented	Amount Approved in US $	Conditions
Asociación de Literatura y Arte CASCADAS	Primer Concurso Internacional de Poesia Quechua y Aymara	Bolivia Quechua, Aymara	5 000	For awards, as well as publication and dissemination activities
Asociación Indigena Urbana PACHA - ARU	Promotion and dissemination of indigenous laws	Chile Aymara	10 000	For workshops
Comité Autónomo Ejecutivo de Proyecto CAEP	Demarcation of the property of native communities in the Peruvian rainforest	Peru Asheninkas	10 000	

Total number of projects: 3
Total amount: US$ 25,000